

BRECKSVILLE

UNITED Church of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Creating and Active Holy One, you call us to be agents of change and instruments of compassion in our society. Empower and inspire us so that we might willingly leave our comfort zones, to bring Christ's love and justice, grace and peace to our community and to our world. Amen.



Sunday, September 2, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are male, female, or transgender,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

You Are Welcome Here!

*If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,
Or a life-long member of the UCC,*

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or pangender

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, or a person with differing abilities,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place,

Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!



Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

September 2, 2018 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Meditation Music

Divine Source of Light and Wisdom, this world can be a confusing place, with so many different things clamoring for our attention and devotion. Enlighten and guide us, so that as we navigate through the countless distractions, we may find our way to what truly counts: your everlasting love and grace. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Prelude

Wesley

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

Call to Worship

Leader: Divine Spirit of Life and Love,

People: You are as near to us as our breath.

L: Touch our eyes,

P: That we may see you in one another.

L: Open our ears,

P: That we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.

L: Enter our hearts,

P: That we may be filled with your compassion and grace.

L: Come, Holy Spirit of Life and Wholeness,

All: Be with us now; show us how to love one another; and give us the courage to be your faithful people!

*** Hymn of Praise**

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

*** Prayer of Confession** [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, you call us to be your One Family, to care for your world and all within it. You challenge us to feed the hungry, heal the hurting, and bring hope and comfort where there is grief and despair. Forgive us when we fail to do so. Mend our broken human family. By your Spirit, breathe into us the power of your abundant love and grace, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Brother, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

* The Assurance of Pardon

L: People of Faith, rejoice and give thanks! The Holy Spirit is here with compassion and power to heal our brokenness, forgive our sins, and fill us with newness of life and purpose!

All: Thanks be to God!

* Passing the Peace

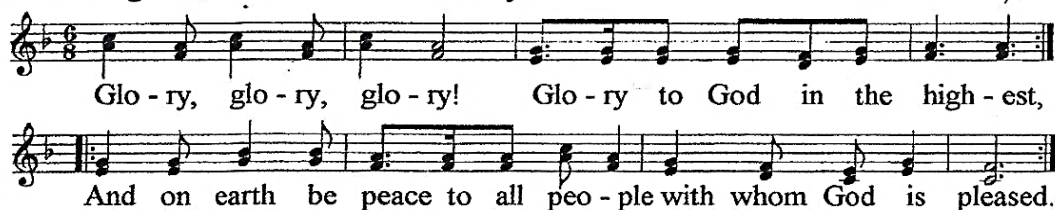
L: As forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

* The Song of Praise

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Jeremiah 7:1-7

Pew Bible, page 707

The New Testament

Mark 7:1-15; 21

Pew Bible, page 42

The Continuing Testament

Why Don't You Wash Your Hands?

by Samuel Candler

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

If With All Your Heart

Mendelssohn

[Becky Anderson, flute]

(from the oratorio *Elijah*)

"If with all your heart ye truly seek Me,

Ye shall ever surely find Me,

Thus saith our God."

Derived from Lutheran Bible by Julius Schubring;

English version by William Bartholomew

Sermon

Goodness, Gracious!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

*[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to one's
theological understanding]*

**...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Andantino

Surzynski

*** Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care;
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts;
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**We give thanks, Gracious Holy One, that you provide for all of our needs. Your love
strengthens and sustains us. Your abundance makes possible our giving of self
and substance. Help us to be truly generous, that we may inspire generosity in
others. Use us and our gifts for your loving service, that your blessings might
freely flow through the world! Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

**Eat This Bread
[sung twice]**

#788

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!

L: Because you show us your perfect Love in the person of Jesus Christ, who endured the Cross for the sake of us all, it is right that we should give you thanks and praise, saying,

All: Holy, holy, holy, Source of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O Holy One Most High!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Communion

Marty

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your Table through these gifts of Bread and Cup. We ask that you now strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace; through Jesus Christ our ever-present Savior. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

#573

*Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

* Circle of Community

*As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah.** After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith*



*Benediction

Postlude

Ricercare

G. Gabrieli

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Fred Pesek, The Family of Shirley Duncan, Jill Black, Kathy & Leroy Ford and their Grandson, Garion, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)

Attendance August 19, 2018 – Adults: 60 Kids: 11 Total: 71

August 26, 2018: Worship in the Park

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for our Coffee Hour.

WE WELCOME VISITING PARENTS - We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour: Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery. Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers. Crayons and paper are also available from ushers for children.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Joanne Cook, In loving memory of her twin sister, Jeanne.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

RALLY DAY POTLUCK - SEPTEMBER 9 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

Get creative and make a new recipe to share - a main dish, salad, dessert, etc

Get your name on the signup sheet with a Membership Committee member.

Get Some School Supplies To “decorate” our tables - pick up some paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, etc. and bring to the dinner. Looking forward to seeing you!

BRECKSVILLE UCC MUSIC MINISTRY - Rehearsals for our music ensembles at BUCC will begin this week and next. Here is the schedule of starting dates and times:

Joyful Noise Choir (K through 5th grade): First practice is this Thursday Sept. 6 from 5:30 to 6:15. Fun songs are learned about living Jesus' message of love and respect for others. Singing usually followed by activities, including drawing, games, playground, etc.

Adult Choir (high school students welcome): First rehearsal is this Thursday from **7:00 to 8:30**. **Note new starting time. ** Adult choir is a good way to prepare spiritually for Sunday services, and provides an enjoyable opportunity for choral singing and fellowship in a relaxed, affirming environment.

Youth Percussion Group (6th grade and up): First practice is Sunday Sept. 9 from 5:30-6:00 before youth ministry at 6. Middle school and high school students learn rhythm patterns to accompany music at services, including preludes, offertories, communion and postludes, as well as occasional choir anthems. An ancient form of music-making, playing percussion can help relieve stress while being a gateway to meditation.

Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble (all ages welcome): First practice scheduled for Wednesday Sept. 12 from 4:30-5:00. This group plays prelude music for services about once a month. Listening CDs are provided to help make the learning process easier. Sheet music features both musical notes and musical letters.

Seasonal Choir (high school students welcome): Seasonal choir members fill out the regular choir in presenting BUCC's annual Christmas cantata. Cantata rehearsals will begin on Thurs. Oct. 11 from 7-8:00 PM.

Instrumentalists (all ages welcome): If you play a musical instrument and would be comfortable playing a piece for the congregation (or accompanying choir for an anthem), please let Dave D. know so he can keep you in mind during scheduling process.

Private piano lessons (all ages welcome): If you studied with Dave last spring, he will be in touch about this year's schedule. If you would like to start taking lessons, contact Dave to schedule. Lessons usually take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

As we begin our new church season, give some prayerful thought to participating in BUCC's music program in some way. ►

Martin Luther wrote, "Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." Consider becoming part of the gifting process: check out a rehearsal or two this fall. All are welcome!

Readings

The Old Testament - Jeremiah 7:1-7

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Holy One: Stand in the gate of the Temple and proclaim there this word, and say, "Hear the word of the Holy One, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Holy One. Thus, says the Sovereign of Hosts, the God of Israel: 'Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not seek protection in this empty phrase: "This is the temple of the Holy One, the temple of the Holy One, the temple of the Holy One." For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

The New Testament - Mark 7:1-15; 21

When the Pharisees and scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without ritually washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, And they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is *Corban* (that is, “an offering to God”) - then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

Then he called the crowd and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.... For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come.”

The Continuing Testament - *Why Don't You Wash Your Hands?* - by Samuel Candler [edited]

Though the tradition of washing hands had begun for the Pharisees in all sincerity, by Jesus' time a certain fear had set-in. Their system of ritual performance had grown so rigid that it had taken control of them. Everything they did hinged on the concern that maybe they would be breaking a law; and if one part of the tradition were to be broken, then maybe the whole tradition would die out; and if the tradition died out, then maybe the whole faith would die out as well.

Fear does that to people. It turns minor concerns into obsessions. We are afraid that if something in our system of belief fails, then we will fail. If something in our society changes, then our society is broken. Fear distorts reality, so that the important concerns of our life are missed. In short, fear can be a paralyzing power; but there is a way out. It is the way of Divine Grace and Freedom that is revealed in Jesus, and offered to us all.

Jesus ate with outcasts, and ran-around with “unclean” people. He plucked grain on the Sabbath. He ate without washing his hands! He was free not to be frightened of society or of his enemies, but to speak truth to them in love. It is the freedom of Jesus that enables him to accept those who are different. It is that same freedom which allows you and me to look at ourselves honestly, and to accept the Divine Grace that Jesus Christ offers. It is that freedom which, finally, empowers us to love ourselves and to truly love one another.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 2

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Mon., Sept. 3

LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs., Sept. 6

1:00 pm Bible Study

5:30 pm Joyful Noise

7:30 pm Choir

Friday, Sept. 7

Office Closed

Sunday, Sept. 9

10:00 am Worship Service/Rally Day

11:00 am Rally Day Potluck

11:00 am Spiritual Life

5:30 pm Youth Percussion

6:00 pm Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

Lay Reader:	Dot Bailey
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	Dave & Julie Bernard Bob & Caroline Chandler
Acolyte:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound:	Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr:	Max Roha
Flowers:	Joanne Cook
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher:	
Counters:	Nancy Stella, Bruce McCain
Servers:	Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-up:	Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan
Snacks:	Betty Kaul, Anne Melfo

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Lay Reader:	Kate Klonowski
Head Usher:	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Chad & Bridget Sproul Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte:	Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr:	Marge Culver
Flowers:	Bettina Ortiz
Nursery:	Courtnei Began
C.E Teacher:	
Counters:	Matt Wolbert, Jon Thompson
Servers:	Rally
Clean-Up:	Day
Snacks:	Potluck